



{In Archive} Re: Fw: Waimanalo Gulch Landfill January 2011 Beach Contamination

Stephen Tyahla to: Nancy Sockabasin

02/18/2011 09:56 AM

From: Stephen Tyahla/R9/USEPA/US
To: Nancy Sockabasin/R9/USEPA/US@EPA,
Archive: This message is being viewed in an archive.

Hi Nancy, I'm off today (kids off from school), so I'll be logging off soon after sending this, and back in on Tuesday. However, the below should answer Mr. Giacometti's question. Feel free to pass along.

Yes, Rich is correct. I'm our PM for the Administrative Order on Consent (AOC) we issued to Waste Management of Hawaii, Inc. (WMH) on 25 January 2011, and, thus far, WMH has been satisfactorily meeting the deadlines and requirements of our AOC.

Mr. Giacometti's concern is logically focused on safety using the beaches. Based on favorable bacteriological testing performed by the City and County of Honolulu ("City"), the City removed warning signs on the beaches somewhere around 23 January (I may be wrong on precise date, but don't have my notes at home).

Waste material from the landfill, to the best of my knowledge, has not been discovered or reported to WMH for at least a couple of weeks (again, I don't have my notes so can't be more precise). Based on what I know right now, I think it's accurate to say that the beaches are safe with respect to impacts from the release that occurred around 12/13 January 2011.

For the most current ocean water bacteriological information: It is my understanding that the Clean Water Branch (CWB) of the State Department of Health monitors water quality at the beaches in accordance with applicable law and regulation (The "BEACH" Act, part of the Clean Water Act, applies). I recommend that Mr. Giacometti contact the CWB to simply confirm that the most recent testing performed by CWB indicates safe levels (and I strongly suspect that they do). Here's a link to their web site: <http://hawaii.gov/health/environmental/water/cleanwater/index.html>
CWM's main phone number is: 808-586-4309; their number for warnings and advisories is 808-586-5826.

Sorry for the long answer. I hope it's helpful. :)

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-----Nancy Sockabasin/R9/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Stephen Tyahla/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Nancy Sockabasin/R9/USEPA/US
Date: 02/18/2011 09:05AM
Subject: Fw: Waimanalo Gulch Landfill January 2011 Beach Contamination

Hi Steve. Rich told me you were the staff lead on this landfill work. Would you be able to answer this individual's questions? If so, I will forward your contact information to him.

Thanks!

-Nancy

Nancy Sockabasin
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San Francisco, CA 94105
415-972-3772
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<http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/tribal>

----- Forwarded by Nancy Sockabasin/R9/USEPA/US on 02/18/2011 09:03 AM -----

From: egiaco GIACOMETTI <egiaco@msn.com>
To: Nancy Sockabasin/R9/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 02/17/2011 01:56 PM
Subject: Waimanalo Gulch Landfill January 2011 Beach Contamination

Hello,

My name is Ed Giacometti. I was given your email address by Maggie Waldon. I had some questions regarding the release from Waimanalo Gulch Landfill that resulted in beach closures on Ko Olina in Oahu. I have family that plans to visit this area and I am concerned for their safety. We have contacted the resorts and they of course tell us that the event is over and it is safe. However, I do not believe that to be the case. If you or someone from your office could shed some light on this for me, I would greatly appreciate it. I would hate to have something happen to my family just cause we trusted the opinion of a resort.

Thank you,

Ed Giacometti